

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. In early December 1952 the Chinese Communist government exercised complete sovereignty in Manchuria only as far north as Ch'angch'un (N 43-53, E 125-20). Soviet representatives were maintaining the following controls which placed limitations on Chinese Communist authority in Northern Manchuria:
 - a. No foreigners traveling from China through Manchuria were permitted to travel north of Ch'angch'un unless cleared by Soviet authorities in that city.
 - b. Chinese officials were required to clear all trips north of Ch'angch'un in advance with the provincial government and Soviet authorities.
 - c. Persons not properly registered as residents of the area north of Ch'angch'un could not purchase tickets to destinations north of that city except when authorized by the Soviet-supervised railroad police.
2. In December Soviet infantry troops in the guise of supply, maintenance, and railroad guard units were reported moving into Harbin and other centers north of Ch'angch'un.

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☐ Comment. This report appears to be exaggerated and possibly inaccurate. The Soviets returned the Ch'angch'un railroad to the Chinese Communists in late 1952, and according to a recent report from another agency based on the questioning of many former residents of Manchuria, the Soviets have been reducing the scope of their economic and administrative controls in Manchuria since 1949; even when they held control of the Ch'angch'un railroad, the Soviets confined themselves to technical assistance matters, evidently consciously avoiding any overt interference in Chinese Communist affairs.

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